An outbreak of Ebola is still going on in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It has declared its 10th outbreak of Ebola in 40 years on 1st August 2018. This outbreak is centered in the Northeast of the country. More than 1000 cases have been reported from the affected country. According to the WHO statistics, a total of 3,204 cases have been reported to the WHO, out of which 3,090 cases are confirmed. The total deaths recorded up to October 2019 are 2,142. Sri Lanka is practising open economy and entertains tourism. Travelling is a part of global development including Sri Lanka. Hence, vulnerability at the ports of entry to the country is supported for an outbreak of any disease including Ebola.

What is Ebola?

It is a viral disease and called Ebola Viral Disease (EVD). It is an acute serious illness which is often fatal if untreated. Average case fatality rate is around 50%. EVD first appeared in 1976 with two outbreaks in Sudan and Congo. One had occurred in a village near Ebola River from which the disease has derived its name.

Mode of spread:

The disease has been transmitted to the human population from wild animals (fruit bats, monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas and forest antelopes) through blood, body fluids and organs by consuming infected ill or dead animals. It has spread in human population through human – to- human transmission.

Clinical features:
Having gone through 2-21 days incubation period, patient develops signs and symptoms. Patient should develop symptoms to spread the disease. Fever, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, sore throat are suddenly aroused symptoms followed by vomiting, diarrhoea and rash. Impaired liver and kidney functions with internal and external bleeding will occur in some cases with increasing severity.

Diagnosis:

Clinical Diagnosis is difficult and laboratory diagnosis is facilitated. Blood tests show elevation of liver enzymes, low white cells and platelet counts. Current WHO recommended diagnostic tests are automated or semi automated nuclear acid test (NAT) and Rapid antigen detection test.

Treatment:

There is no proven treatment available and symptomatic treatment is practised. As a supportive care oral and intravenous fluids are administered.

Vaccine:

Highly effective vaccine rVSV- ZEBOV was introduced in 2015 and practised at the current outbreak in Congo (DRC).

Prevention and control:

Community engagement is a key factor to control outbreaks successfully. Case management, sur-

Compiled by:

Dr HATHHYA M MUNASINGHA
Consultant Epidemiologist
Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health

Reference: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ebola-virus-disease
Table 1: Selected notifiable diseases reported by Medical Officers of Health 21st - 27th Sep 2019 (39th Week)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>RHDS Division</th>
<th>Colombo</th>
<th>Gampaha</th>
<th>Kelaniya</th>
<th>Kandy</th>
<th>Matara</th>
<th>Nuware Eliya</th>
<th>Galu</th>
<th>Hambantota</th>
<th>Matale</th>
<th>Jaffna</th>
<th>Kilinochchi</th>
<th>Mannar</th>
<th>Vavuniya</th>
<th>Malaitivu</th>
<th>Batticaloa</th>
<th>Ampara</th>
<th>Trincomalee</th>
<th>Kurunegala</th>
<th>Polonnaruwa</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chickenpox</td>
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<td>214</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>17 599</td>
<td>90 4976 / 0</td>
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<td>95 2663 / 0</td>
<td>46 2319</td>
<td>4 134 0</td>
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<td>12 244 0</td>
<td>6 1151 9</td>
<td>17 1151 0</td>
<td>13 982 1</td>
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</table>

- The figures refer to returns reported on or before 27th September, 2019.
- Total number of reporting units: 353.
- Number of reporting units data provided for the current week: 320.
- Completeness A: Cases reported during the current week. B: Cumulative cases for the year.
## Table 2: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & AFP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>No. of Cases by Province</th>
<th>Number of cases during current week in 2019</th>
<th>Number of cases during same week in 2018</th>
<th>Total number of cases to date in 2019</th>
<th>Total number of cases to date in 2018</th>
<th>Difference between the number of cases to date in 2019 &amp; 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFP*</td>
<td>W 00 01 01 00 00 00 01 00 00 02 02</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>31.9 %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diphtheria</td>
<td>W 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>W 01 00 01 01 01 00 00 00 00 04 06</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>1.1 %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>W 00 00 00 00 01 00 01 00 00 02 01 247 98 152.0 %</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rubella</td>
<td>W 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRS**</td>
<td>W 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tetanus</td>
<td>W 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17 %</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal Tetanus</td>
<td>W 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese Encephalitis</td>
<td>W 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>- 64 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whooping Cough</td>
<td>W 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>- 10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>W 45 29 00 05 08 04 00 00 02 15 108 205 6389 6433</td>
<td>- 0.6 %</td>
<td>- 0.6 %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Key to Table 1 & 2

**Provinces:**
- W: Western
- C: Central
- S: Southern
- N: North
- E: East
- NC: North Central
- NW: North Western
- U: Uva
- Sab: Sabaragamuwa

**RDHS Divisions:**
- CB: Colombo
- GM: Gampaha
- KL: Kalutara
- KD: Kandy
- ME: Matale
- NE: Nuwara Eliya
- GL: Galle
- HB: Hambantota
- MT: Matara
- JF: Jaffna
- KN: Kilinochchi
- MN: Mannar
- VA: Vavuniya
- ML: Matale
- BT: Batticaloa
- AM: Ampara
- TR: Trincomalee
- KM: Kalmunai
- KR: Kurunegala
- PU: Puttalam
- AP: Anuradhapura
- PO: Polonnaruwa
- BD: Badulla
- MO: Moneragala
- RP: Ratnapura
- KG: Kegalle

**Data Sources:**
- Weekly Return of Communicable Diseases: Diphtheria, Measles, Tetanus, Neonatal Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, Meningitis, Mumps., Rubella, CRS
- Special Surveillance: AFP* (Acute Flaccid Paralysis), Japanese Encephalitis
- CRS** = Congenital Rubella Syndrome

**NA** = Not Available

### Dengue Prevention and Control Health Messages

**Look for plants such as bamboo, bohemia, rampe and banana in your surroundings and maintain them free of water collection.**

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ON STATE SERVICE

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